

West Smashes Big Red Spy Ring

By ORR KELLY
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Italian military intelligence agents have in the last 3½ weeks scored a historic "black war" victory over their Soviet counterparts.

Although the full scope of the operation is only beginning to emerge, it now appears that the Italian intelligence agency, SID, has crushed a major espionage operation of the Soviet agency, GRU, built up carefully over the last seven years and aimed at the military heart of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

So far, at least 30 persons have been arrested and five Soviet officials have been expelled from European nations. There is every indication that further arrests and expulsions will follow.

How successful the Soviet spy

effort had been is not clearly known and this aspect of the case may never be fully revealed. But there is convincing evidence that it had either failed in—or had not yet achieved—its major objective of penetrating the U.S. bases in the Mediterranean area and installations of NATO on a wholesale basis.

The Soviet spy network began to come apart on the pleasantly warm afternoon of March 15 when Italian counter-espionage agents grabbed a courier at Monginevro Pass on the French-Italian border and seized 19 rolls of microfilm.

Within hours, Soviet diplomats and businessmen who were almost certainly commissioned officers in the GRU began packing their bags and heading for home.

Five of them were ordered to leave Italy, Cyprus and Greece.

Others as far away as Austria, Morocco and Japan simply packed up and disappeared.

Ten persons were arrested almost immediately in Italy, Cyprus, Austria and Greece. On Friday, it was revealed another 20 persons had been picked up by counter-intelligence officers in Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Morocco and Tunisia.

Gradually, in bits and pieces, the story of the spy operation and the counter-intelligence work that broke it up has emerged. It is now possible, by patching together these bits and pieces, and by discarding some of the erroneous early rumors, to tell the story in considerable detail.

The four key figures in the case are Giorgio Rinaldi, 39, his wife, Angela Maria Antonella Rinaldi, 52, their chauffeur, Armando Lorenzo Girard, 40,

and Rinaldi's case officer, Yuri Kuzmich Pavlenko, 35, a GRU officer who was an attache at the Soviet Embassy in Rome.

Until their arrest, Rinaldi and his wife operated an antique store known as the Bottega di Lagno ("The Wood Shop") on the Borgo Medievale del Valentino in a restored medieval section of Turin. Rinaldi was an avid parachutist and frequently traveled throughout Europe to attend sky-diving meets.

His pudgy wife, whose true role in the spy operation is not yet known publicly, was an artist of some ability.

Rinaldi, who became a guerrilla fighter at the age of 16 during World War II, made his first contact with the Russians in 1958. By 1960 he had been recruited as an operative.

Just when the SID began to keep a careful eye on him is not clear, but Italian intelligence is

known to have had a special interest in him for at least five years—two years before the GRU began to build up the elaborate espionage apparatus for which he served as the center point or principal agent.

Rinaldi was one of a number of persons the SID—Servizio Informazioni Difesa—had been watching because of known contacts with Soviet agents. SID's interest in Rinaldi quickened last July when he and his wife flew from Paris to Moscow under assumed names.

SID agents also were monitoring a mysterious transmission from a high-powered radio station near Moscow. Although they could not decode the messages because the key to the code was changed too often, they noticed that the transmissions seemed to coincide with

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